



NEWS RELEASE

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Los Angeles Man Pleads Not Guilty in Dog Abuse Case

A Los Angeles man accused of beating his dog pleaded not guilty this afternoon, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Eric James Fowler, 40 (dob 9/15/73), was arraigned on one felony count of cruelty to an animal in case VA134185. The felony complaint further alleges that Fowler was convicted in 1995 of two counts of robbery.

The defendant appeared at the Metropolitan Courthouse and his bail was set at \$120,000.

Deputy District Attorney Cindy Waterman said on March 5 sheriff deputies were driving through an unincorporated area of Los Angeles when they allegedly observed Fowler kicking and stomping on a white object.

As the deputies got closer to Fowler, they saw the white object was a dog, the prosecutor said. The deputies intervened and yelled at Fowler to stop.

Fowler reportedly ceased beating up the dog and the canine laid motionless, Waterman said. After some time, the dog woke up, struggled to its feet and was led by the deputies to the patrol car.

After the incident, the defendant was arrested. The dog was taken to a shelter for a medical exam, where it currently remains, the prosecutor added.

The defendant's next court appearance is scheduled for March 20 at the Metropolitan Courthouse in Department 69.

If convicted as charged, Fowler faces a maximum sentence of six years in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.